



Australian Government
Australian Institute of Criminology



**Young people, risk and resilience:
The challenges of alcohol,
drugs and violence**

7–8 March 2011
RACV Club, Melbourne, Victoria

Conference program

Supported by



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Director's welcome



On behalf of the Australian Institute of Criminology and our partner, the Victorian Safe Communities Network, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Young People, Risk and Resilience conference in Melbourne.

A special thanks goes to my co-chairs from the VSCN—Nello Marino and Commander Frank Stockton—who proposed this conference.

Over the last 20 years there has been both an upsurge in research and also good progress in policy setting in the areas of young people, risk and resilience.

I know that delegates, in your various capacities, are committed to finding solutions and interventions for young people at risk in order to both prevent harm and enhance health and wellbeing.

Many teenagers are attracted to risky behaviours - binge drinking, drug-use, unprotected sex, dangerous driving. Most indulge a few times and then remove themselves from these sorts of behaviour. Yet police records unfortunately show that a proportion continue to offend and end up in the criminal justice system.

This conference is about those who sometimes put themselves at risk—and those who keep getting drawn to criminal behaviours—what motivates them, and what we can do to intervene.

It is important to recognise that young people can escape the traps that have been set by dysfunctional family experiences, peer influence, addictions, and mental health problems. Most young people are naturally resilient but society must also provide supports and therapeutic interventions for young people to build on that resilience, both by intervening early and in responding to the acute needs of those young people who are engaging in risky behaviours.

The conference brings together researchers, police, practitioners, and young people themselves, and should provide fresh insight into the personal and social challenges which confront young Australians.

I am pleased that we have so many distinguished speakers, thinkers and practitioners who have been wrestling with these issues for many years to assist us in understanding these pathways and I thank all those whose abstracts were accepted to present on the important work they are doing to assist young people whether through early intervention or rehabilitation.

I am sure the panel discussion at the conclusion of the conference, chaired by Professor Arie Freiberg, will provide an excellent opportunity to draw together many of the ideas that will be canvassed over the next two days. I hope you are both challenged by, and also enjoy, the presentations and discussions that have been developed, and that the outcomes of the conference add to your armory of best practice responses in working with and supporting vulnerable young people.

Dr Adam M Tomison
Director, Australian Institute of Criminology
March 2011

Risk and Resilience themes

Young people who experiment with alcohol and other drugs, whether legally or illegally obtained, may unwittingly compromise their safety and wellbeing or the safety and wellbeing of others.

Evidence suggests that young people who use alcohol and other drugs are more likely to participate in other high-risk activities, and to be involved in violent and traumatic incidents such as assaults. Inexperience and peer influence undoubtedly contribute to these harms. In addition, use of alcohol and other drugs can increase young people's risk of committing crimes and lead to early involvement in the criminal justice system.

Questions that need to be explored in this context include:

- What is the nature and extent of young people's involvement with alcohol, other drugs and violence?
- What interventions are likely to reduce risks resulting from, and increase resilience to, these potentially harmful activities?
- What can be learned about the experiences of young people and practitioners that can be applied in practice?

Australian Institute of Criminology

The Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) is Australia's national research and knowledge centre on crime and justice. The Institute seeks to promote justice and reduce crime by undertaking and communicating evidence-based research to inform policy and practice.

The AIC was established in 1973 as a Commonwealth statutory authority and operates under the *Criminology Research Act 1971*. The Director reports to the Minister for Home Affairs and Justice and to the Board of Management, comprising distinguished criminal justice practitioners from around Australia.

The functions of the AIC include conducting criminological research, conducting and/or arranging conferences and seminars, and publishing material arising from the AIC's work.

Victorian Safe Communities Network

The Victorian Safe Communities Network (VSCN) is an independent membership-based incorporated association of practitioners, researchers and policymakers from diverse sectors working in community safety. It is managed by an elected eight member Executive Committee.

The VSCN was established to give community safety professionals a forum for support and learning when Victoria's first two municipalities were designated as World Health Organization Safe Communities in 1996.

The aim of the VSCN's professional development program of seminars and conferences is to minimise the harmful effects of unintentional injury, crime, violence and emergency situations by encouraging government, business and the community to promote safety for all Victorians.

Important information for delegates

Registration desk

The conference registration desk will be located in the Level 17 pre-function area at the RACV Club. The registration desk will be open at the following times during the conference:

Monday 7 March 2011 7.30am–5.30pm

Tuesday 8 March 2011 8.00am–4.30pm

Catering and dietary requirements

Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be served daily in the Level 17 pre-function area. If you have indicated that you have special dietary requirements on your registration form, catering will be provided for you in a specially marked section. Please make yourself known to venue staff.

Cocktail reception

The cocktail reception is open to all conference delegates who registered for the full program. It will be held on Monday 7 March 2011 on the Level 17 terrace (weather permitting). The reception will start immediately at the conclusion of the final session at approximately 5.30pm. The reception will conclude at 7.00pm.

Name tags

All registered conference delegates will be issued with a name tag and lanyard upon registration at the conference. Name tags must be clearly visible at all times during the conference.

Conference evaluation

Included in your conference satchel you will find a conference evaluation form. To assist the AIC with planning future conferences, please complete the form and place it in the conference evaluation drop box located at the registration desk prior to your departure.

Privacy

Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000

Information collected in respect of proposed participation in the conference will only be used for the purposes of planning and conducting the conference and for future correspondence about AIC research, events and publications. Delegate information will be accessed by the conference organising committee, the AIC and accommodation venues when necessary.

Parking

Parking is located beneath the RACV Club (subject to availability) and allows direct access to the conference rooms. Parking for conference delegates is available at \$14 per hour to a maximum of \$56.00 per day.

Disclaimer

The services specified in this booklet are available at the time of writing. However, in the event that any service becomes unavailable or minimum numbers are not met, the conference organiser reserves the right to alter, reschedule or cancel the event or any component thereof.

The views of speakers and panel members do not necessarily reflect those of the conference organisers and sponsors.

Program—Day 1

Day 1 Monday 7 March				
Time	Conference session			Location
0730	Registration opens			Level 17 Pre-function
0900	Welcome to country —Aunty Pat Ockwell Conference opening Welcome address —Dr Adam Tomison, Director, Australian Institute of Criminology and Nello Marino, Co-Chair, Victorian Safe Communities Network			Level 17 Ballroom
0930–1015	Plenary address 1 —David Chalke, Director, Quantum Research <i>Young people's attitudes towards violence, drugs, alcohol and other social issues</i>			Level 17 Ballroom
1015–1100	Plenary address 2 —Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe, Victoria Police <i>Challenging the culture of violence in the public and private domains</i>			Level 17 Ballroom
1100–1130	Morning tea			
1130–1210	Plenary address 3 —A/Prof John Fitzgerald, Executive Manager, Knowledge & Environments for Health, VicHealth <i>Promoting messages to young people: strategic approaches to reducing harm</i>			Level 17 Ballroom
1210–1300	Plenary address 4 —Dr Tom Carroll, Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, University of Sydney <i>Applying social marketing techniques to crime prevention and community safety</i>			Level 17 Ballroom
1300–1400	Lunch			
1400–1530	Concurrent session 1a— Violence and safety	Concurrent session 1b—Drugs and alcohol	Concurrent session 1c— Youth and the criminal justice system	Concurrent session 1d— Supporting young people
Room	Level 17 Ballroom	Level 2, Bourke Room 3	Level 2, Bayside Room 4	Level 2, Bayside Rooms 5/6
1400–1420	Sheryl Hemphill and Rachel Smith, Centre for Adolescent Health— <i>Youth violence prevention approaches: which ones work and how do we know?</i>	Lance Smith, Australian Institute of Criminology— <i>Research challenges with the ACT policing strategies for licensed premises project</i>	Natalie Gately, Edith Cowan University— <i>The Young Offender Risk Identification Assessment screening tool</i>	Verne McManus and Pariri Rautahi, Massey University— <i>Community action on youth and drugs: making a difference at the community level</i>
1420–1440	Stephen Fisher— <i>Masculinity is dangerous—why gender is a key factor determining young people's violence</i>	Lisa Armstrong-Rowe, City of Greater Geelong and Sergeant Shane Connolly, Victoria Police— <i>'So you know': an education campaign for licensed premises</i>	Prue Holzer, Productivity Commission— <i>Developing a performance indicator framework for juvenile justice services</i>	Stacey Holbrough, Christchurch City Council— <i>Christchurch City Council/Police youth project</i>
1440–1500	Dr Lucas Walsh, Foundation for Young Australians— <i>The solution and the source: preventing violence through schools and youth-led change</i>	Natalie Drage and Will Doran, Cessnock City Council and Snr Constable Michael Steele, NSW Police— <i>Smart Choices: an early intervention initiative between NSW Police and Cessnock Council</i>	Dr Kelly Richards, Australian Institute of Criminology— <i>What makes juvenile offenders different from adult offenders?</i>	LSC Renee Bloomfield, Victoria Police— <i>Youth Forum: 'Good choices, Great life'</i>
1500–1520	Dr Colleen Bryant, Australian Institute of Criminology— <i>Adolescent violence within the continuum: implications for early intervention</i>	Sgt Antony Woodbridge, New Zealand Police and Andrew Galloway, Alcohol Advisory Council of NZ— <i>Alcohol harm reduction: initiatives for youth in small communities</i>	Danny Alcock and Azusa Umemoto, TaskForce— <i>Characteristics of young substance users and their attitudes towards seeking treatment</i>	Kimberley Banfield and Karly Redwood, Victoria Police— <i>Alcohol diversion for underage youth: the Victorian Early Intervention Pilot Program</i>
1520–1530	Questions			
1530–1600	Afternoon tea			

Day 1 Monday 7 March (continued)

Time	Conference session			
1600–1730	Concurrent session 2a— Violence and safety	Concurrent session 2b—Drugs and alcohol	Concurrent session 2c— Youth and the criminal justice system	Concurrent session 2d— Workshop
Room	Level 17, Ballroom	Level 2, Bayside Room 4	Level 2, Bayside Rooms 5/6	Level 2, Bourke Room 3
1600–1620	Emma Price, Centre Against Sexual Assault, Royal Women's Hospital— <i>Young people and sexual violence: the challenge of prevention</i>	A/Prof Mohamed Abdalla and Abdi Hersi, Griffith University— <i>Khat: an emerging drug concern in Australia</i>	Jennifer Fleming, Edith Cowan University— <i>Uncouth youth?: Building a profile of young offenders in Perth Children's Court, 1994–2009</i>	Simon Faulkner, Holyoake Institute— <i>DRUMBEAT: building resilience through rhythm</i> This workshop introduces
1620–1640	Mary Ashe, Injury Council of WA— <i>Y-Safety? A question and answer forum between young people and stakeholders</i>	Christine Siokou, La Trobe University— <i>Changes in drug use in the Melbourne rave/dance party scene?</i>	LSC Kevin Mack, Victoria Police— <i>Prevention through connection: restorative practices and family community group conferencing</i>	Discovering Relationships Using Music, Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes and Thoughts (DRUMBEAT), an early intervention program designed to connect with young people exhibiting risk factors detrimental to their health, education and social wellbeing, and who are averse to talk-based therapies.
1640–1700	Dean Griggs, City of Melbourne and Cr Jennifer Kanis, Melbourne City Council— <i>Turning fear into courage: putting young people into perspective</i>	Sheena Arora, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre— <i>What's behind the common risk-taking practice & help-seeking behaviours of regular ecstasy users?</i>	Jeremy Cass, Youth Legal Service, Victoria Legal Aid— <i>Diversion and support for young people in Victoria</i>	Participants will experience the actual process of social learning through teamwork, explore relationship building through hand drumming, and understand how young people are engaged through analogy and metaphor.
1700–1720	Ray Messer, The Family Action Centre— <i>Rock and Water violence prevention program</i>	Rachael Green, National Drug Research Institute— <i>For better or worse: Exploring the centrality of relationships in client narratives, and considerations for outcomes evaluation</i>	Karen Hart, The Youth Junction Inc— <i>Crime, choices and consequences: preventive intervention at work in re-offending youth</i>	
1720–1730	Questions			
1730–1900	Evening reception			
	Performance by Anti Racism Action Band - Culture Kr3w Jamil Zacahria jazz ensemble			

Program—Day 2

Day 2 Tuesday 8 March				
Time	Conference session			Location
0800	Registration opens			Level 17 Pre-function
0830	Day 2 opening—Minister's address —Minister for Home Affairs and Justice, Brendan O'Connor MP			Level 17 Ballroom
0845–0915	Plenary address 5 —Dr Adam Tomison, Director, Australian Institute of Criminology <i>Child abuse: pathways to the juvenile justice system</i>			Level 17 Ballroom
0915–1000	Plenary address 6 —NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione, Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency <i>Responding to alcohol misuse and improving community safety</i>			Level 17 Ballroom
1000–1030	Morning tea			
1030–1115	Plenary address 7 —Prof Jan Copeland, National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre <i>Preventing criminal justice outcomes associated with the use of cannabis</i>			Level 17 Ballroom
1115–1200	Plenary address 8 —Michael Livingston, Researcher, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre <i>Association between increased density of alcohol outlets and harmful outcomes</i>			Level 17 Ballroom
1200–1300	Lunch			
1300–1430	Concurrent session 3a—Perceptions of young people	Concurrent session 3b—Drugs and alcohol	Concurrent session 3c—Violence and safety	Concurrent session 3d—Youth and the criminal justice system
Room	Level 17, Ballroom	Level 2, Bayside Room 4	Level 2, Bayside Rooms 5/6	Level 2, Bourke Room 3
1300–1320	A/Prof Michele Grossman, Victoria University— <i>'Come over, there's a fight!': youth violence, conflict triggers and cultural diversity in Melbourne's inner west</i>	Jodie Downey, City of Ballarat— <i>SSMART Work: building resilience to tackle alcohol related harm</i>	Dr Aneta Kotevski, Centre for Adolescent Health— <i>Consequences of cyber bullying in Victorian students: a longitudinal study</i>	Richard Parker, Juvenile Justice NSW— <i>Cognitive self-change with high-risk juvenile offenders</i>
1320–1340	Lianne Britten, Macquarie University— <i>Indigenous footprints along the career journey</i>	Jason Payne, Australian Institute of Criminology— <i>Changes in drug use patterns among two birth cohorts of young police detainees</i>	Prof John Toumbourou, Deakin University— <i>Predicting area-level trends for youth alcohol-related assaults and hospital admissions in Victoria</i>	Glenn Dawes, James Cook University— <i>Re-engaging at-risk indigenous youth through community-based alternative education programs</i>
1340–1400	Sharan Kraemer, Edith Cowan University— <i>Examination of the 'myth of entitlement' beliefs of young people</i>	Sarah Grace, Life Saving Victoria— <i>Alcohol-related drowning deaths in young people in Victoria, 2000–2010</i>	Dr Michael Flood, University of Wollongong— <i>Increasing the effectiveness and reach of violence prevention among boys and young men</i>	Anne Hooker, Port Phillip Prison— <i>The youth unit at Port Phillip Prison</i>
1400–1420	Mary Ashe, Injury Council of WA— <i>Our space, safe place: young people's perceptions of safety in different public spaces</i>	Jo Howard, Peninsula Health— <i>Preventing adolescent uptake of alcohol and drugs: adolescent violence in the home</i>	LSC Renee Bloomfield, Victoria Police— <i>Frankston Police and Community Youth Assist Program</i>	Bronwyn Manion, Department of Human Services and Bron Parker, Catholic Care— <i>Joint Tenancy Assistance Program: testament to the resilience of young people</i>
1420–1430	Questions			
1430–1500	Afternoon tea			
1500–1600	Panel discussion Chair—Prof Arie Freiberg, Monash University Panel—Arthur Bolkas; Brendan Facey; Michele Grossman; Bernie Geary; Sheryl Hemphill			Level 17 Ballroom
1600–1615	Conference close —Cdr Frank Stockton, Co-Chair, Victorian Safe Communities Network			Level 17 Ballroom

Guest speaker biographies

Dr Tom Carroll, Adjunct Professor

School of Public Health, University of Sydney



Dr Tom Carroll is a social marketing and research consultant and an Adjunct Professor in the Sydney School of Public Health at The University of Sydney. Over the last three decades, Dr Carroll has consulted for state and federal government and non-government organisations on social marketing behaviour

change strategies across a broad range of public health areas in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as other behaviour change initiatives. This has included extensive work on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among young people. Dr Carroll currently provides consultancy services on social marketing and research to a range of government and non-government organisations and is a technical advisor for the World Lung Foundation's mass media tobacco control work as part of the Bloomberg global tobacco control initiative.

David Chalke, Director

Quantum Research



David is one of Australia's leading social analysts. Working with data from AustraliaSCAN (the annual monitor of social change in Australia), David's 'real world' view of the mood of Australians has made him a very popular speaker at national and international conferences. He is a regularly quoted social commentator and an occasional writer and broadcaster.

David's early career was in Europe in line management with transnational organisations such as Nestle, Cadbury Schweppes and Wilkinson Sword. On coming to Australia, David held the position of Director of Strategy Planning with McCann-Erickson and Y&R Mattingly until founding his own consultancy, The Strategy Planning Group.

In recent years, David has specialised in measuring the effects of social change on Australians' attitudes and behaviours, and advising on the impact of these on the formulation of effective public policy and marketing strategies.

Professor Jan Copeland, Assistant Director

National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre



Professor Jan Copeland is the Director of the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre and an Assistant Director of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. She has published more than 230 articles, books, book chapters and related materials

and attracted in excess of \$35 million in research and related funding. She is a member of the US College on Problems of Drug Dependence and has been recently appointed to their International Committee. Professor Copeland is involved in a number of community agencies and is currently Chair of the Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre and sits on the Board of Management of a therapeutic community, Odyssey Houses. She is a member of a number of national and international advisory groups that cover a range of clinical and policy issues. She is an assistant editor of *Addiction* and the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment* and a member of the Editorial Board of NIDA's journal *Addiction Science and Clinical Practice*.

John Fitzgerald, Executive Manager, Knowledge & Environments for Health

VicHealth



John joined VicHealth in April 2009. He is a leading academic in the field of drug and alcohol research and policy making, working locally, nationally and internationally to translate research into policy outcomes. In 2008 John was recognised for his research and policy work on alcohol consumption among

AFL footballers. John has an extensive publication and research grant history and joins VicHealth following his appointment as Associate Dean Knowledge Transfer in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences, University of Melbourne. In addition to academic publishing, John has expertise in short film-making, rich digital media and innovations in linking research to policy.

Michael Livingston, Research Fellow

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre



Michael is a Research Fellow at the AER Centre for Alcohol Policy Research and is completing his doctoral studies at the University of Melbourne. Since joining the Centre in 2006, Michael has predominantly been involved in research examining the relationship between physical availability (particularly the

density of alcohol outlets) and alcohol-related harms using a range of spatial and longitudinal statistical techniques. In addition, Michael has undertaken a number of projects focusing on risky drinking among young people, including an analysis of recent trends and an examination of individual and environmental factors associated with regular high-risk drinking. Michael has an undergraduate degree in mathematics and an honours degree in criminology. In 2009, Michael was awarded a Sidney Myer Health Scholarship to undertake a PhD. His PhD project, *Liberalising Liquor Licensing—implications for alcohol-related harm* examines the impact of the deregulation of liquor licensing in Victoria and how it affects alcohol consumption, violence and alcohol-related hospitalisations.

NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione

Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency



Commissioner Scipione joined NSW Police in 1980 following a period of employment with the Australian Customs Service. During his time with the NSW Police Force, he held a range of positions and appointments. Following experience in general and traffic duties, he worked as a detective in Bankstown and the CIB. He was subsequently

seconded to the National Crime Authority in 1985. In 1992, Commissioner Scipione was appointed to the rank of Detective

Inspector at the Joint Technical Services Group and in 1995, was promoted to the rank of Detective Superintendent (Commander) at the Special Technical Investigation Branch (formerly JTSG). Between 1992 and 1998, he was also a Senior NSW Police Counter Terrorist Advisor to SAC-PAV. In 1998, Commissioner Scipione was appointed to the position of Chief of Staff to the NSW Police Commissioner and in 2001, was appointed as the Assistant Commissioner in charge of Special Crime & Internal Affairs. He was appointed as Deputy Commissioner in February 2002 and as Commissioner of Police on 1 September 2007.

Commissioner Scipione is a recipient of the Australian Police Medal and the National Medal. He holds a Masters Degree in Management (Macquarie University) a Graduate Diploma in Police Management (Macquarie University) and a Graduate Certificate in Security Management (Edith Cowan University). He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Graduate of the FBI National Executive Institute.

Dr Adam Tomison, Director

Australian Institute of Criminology



Dr Tomison was appointed Director of the AIC in July 2009. He is internationally recognised as an expert in the field of child abuse, the prevention of child abuse and other family violence, as well as for the development and operation of child protection and family support systems. An experienced public service executive, he has worked

over the past two decades in a range of government, non-government organisations and advocacy groups focused on child protection and child abuse prevention in Australia and overseas.

Prior to his appointment with the AIC, he was Head of the Child Protection Program at the Menzies School of Health Research. From 2004 to 2008, Dr Tomison held various senior executive positions within the NT Department of Health and Families, including as Director of the NT's Family and Children's Services and as the Department's inaugural Principal Child Protection Adviser in 2004. In 2006–07, Dr Tomison acted as the expert advisor (and Director of Policy and Research) for the 'Little Children are Sacred' NT Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse. He is perhaps best known for his work as a senior researcher with the Australian Institute of Family Studies, managing the National Child Protection Clearinghouse. Under his leadership, the Clearinghouse became a centre for excellence with a national and international reputation in the field of child

abuse prevention and child protection. He subsequently developed a number of other national research and information units for the Institute, notably the Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault.

Dr Tomison has made significant academic contributions to scholarly and applied research in the areas of child protection and violence prevention, and was appointed as an Adjunct Professor at the Australian Catholic University in 2010. He is a frequent presenter at conferences and has regularly run educational and training seminars for professionals and the wider community.

Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe

Victoria Police



Deputy Commissioner Walshe joined the Victoria Police in February 1968 and has gained a wide range of experience in general policing, criminal investigation, operations support and ethical standards. He has developed high-level managerial skills over the past 20 years since his promotion to commissioned officer and has

been successful in the delivery of policing services over a number of portfolios, including investigations, operations and operations support.

Mr Walshe has undertaken studies with several Australian and international police organisations and holds several qualifications including a Graduate Diploma of Public Administration (Policing). The Australia Police Medal was awarded to Mr Walshe in 1999. He has also been awarded the National Medal and the Ethical Service Medal, both with several clasps.

Mr Walshe was appointed Assistant Commissioner, Region 4 (North East) in 2002 and was responsible for the overall management, strategic direction and service delivery to a population of approximately 1.43 million people. In 2004, he was appointed as Assistant Commissioner, Ethical Standards Department and was responsible for the management internal investigations and the discipline system. On 5 December 2005, Mr Walshe took up his role as the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the newly established Counter Terrorism Coordination & Emergency Management Department. On 2 July 2006, Mr Walshe was appointed to his current role as Deputy Commissioner.

Panel

Professor Arie Freiberg, Dean of Law

Monash University

Professor Arie Freiberg was appointed as Dean of the Faculty Law at Monash University in January 2004. Prior to taking up this position, he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne. He was appointed to the Foundation Chair of Criminology at the University of Melbourne in January 1991 where he served as Head of the Department of Criminology between January 1992 and June 2002.

Professor Freiberg graduated from the University of Melbourne with an honours degree in Law and a Diploma in Criminology in 1972 and holds a Master of Laws degree from Monash University. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws by the University of Melbourne in 2001 and is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Academy of Law and holds an Adjunct Faculty appointment in the Australia and New Zealand School of Government. Between 1996 and 1998, he was President of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology. In 2009, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to law, particularly in the fields of criminology and reform relating to sentencing, legal education and academic leadership.

Arthur Bolkas

MA Criminology, Winston Churchill Memorial Fellow

Raised on welfare in a Greek migrant family, Arthur was a popular student, successful athlete, head prefect and dux of his final year. However, a few years into an Arts–Law degree, Arthur's life was in crisis—landing him in prison (via a drug rehabilitation clinic) for several armed robberies.

Released from prison in 1983, Arthur has worked extensively with both adult and youth offenders designing and presenting programs that might assist them. He also worked with at-risk youth in the community and has been a presenter in schools for the past 11 years. A consultant criminologist and freelance writer/speaker, Arthur has featured in the general media on prison reform and youth issues, and is writing a book based on his prison journal. Arthur is an advocate of early intervention/preventative measures, restorative practices and a whole-of-community response towards offenders.

Brendan Facey

Department of Justice, Victoria

Mr Facey has led Responsible Alcohol Victoria (RAV) for nine months, coordinating alcohol policy and related issues within

the Department of Justice and providing leadership across the Victorian Government on alcohol policy reform. Mr Facey's extensive experience in the development of new policy and strategic services has seen him lead significant legislative and policy change during his time at RAV.

During his 14 years at the Department of Justice, Mr Facey has held various positions including Director, Policy and Strategic Services, Infringement Management and Enforcement Services. This involved the development and implementation of new contract management processes following the tendering of the Traffic Camera Services (\$150 million over 7 years) and Infringement Management and Enforcement Services (\$330 million over 8 years) contracts. Following from this, Mr Facey was Project Director, Commercial, Office of Gaming and Racing and facilitated delivery of transition-out arrangements in accordance with the government's restructure of the gaming industry post 2012.

Mr Facey was also Manager, Policy and Operations, Road Safety Enforcement Technology, Department of Justice. In this position, he undertook the successful implementation of the Infringements Act 2006 into the Victorian Infringements Management System. This implementation represented a fundamental change to the way infringements are processed and managed in Victoria and was accomplished in an extremely tight timeframe. He also oversaw the successful implementation and operation of the Government's Fine Fee Waiver scheme, in which \$21 million in payments were taken and \$53 million in fees were waived.

Bernie Geary, Child Safety Commissioner

Child Safety Commission

Bernie Geary has been the Child Safety Commissioner since the role was established in 2005. He has been working over the last 38 years with vulnerable children, young people and their families. He began his career as Victoria's first outreach youth worker in Melbourne's West Heidelberg area, where he worked for 14 years. Bernie then worked for 17 years at Jesuit Social Services, where he was the CEO from 2001 to 2005. In his early years with Jesuit Social Services, Bernie managed the Brosnan Centre, assisting young people after their release from prison. He has been an advisor and advocate on issues relating to young people and families throughout his career.

Bernie served on the Victorian Youth Parole Board for 17 years from 1988–2005 and was a member of the initial Premier's Drug Advisory Council in 1999 as well as the subsequent

Premier's Drug Advisory Council in 2001. Bernie was a member of the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council from 2005–2008. He is currently a member of the Victorian Children's Council.

As Child Safety Commissioner, Bernie's office audits and monitors a range of government services directed towards Victorian children, in the areas of child protection, out of home care and more general safety standards for Victorian Children. The Office of the Child Safety Commissioner acts as a leader, a conduit and an advisor on children's issues.

Bernie received the Order of Australia in 2002 for services to young people, a Centenary Medal in 2000 and has an honorary Masters Degree in Social Work. In June 2010, Bernie received an honorary award of Doctor of the University (Honoris Causa) Australian Catholic University.

Associate Professor Michele Grossman, Associate Dean (Research)

Victoria University

Dr Michele Grossman is an Associate Professor and Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Arts, Education and Human Development at Victoria University in Melbourne. She has researched, published and reported on a range of refugee youth settlement issues with government and other partners including Victoria Police, DIAC, the Victorian Multicultural Commission and The Song Room.

In 2011, Michele is on a six month secondment with Victoria Police, focusing on research related to improving youth–police interactions. Her 2010 Griffith Review essay on relationships with Sudanese refugees was a finalist for an Australian Human Rights Award.

Associate Professor Sheryl Hemphill

Centre for Adolescent Health

Dr Sheryl Hemphill is a Research Analyst and Project Manager at the Centre for Adolescent Health and is an Honorary Fellow at the Departments of Psychology and Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne. Sheryl's main research interests are the development of adolescent violence and crime, substance use and pro-social behaviour. A related research interest is how schools and communities respond to adolescent problem behaviour and the impact of these responses on subsequent behaviour. She is the convenor of the Violence and Crime Research Group at the Centre for Adolescent Health.

Plenary abstracts

Plenary address 1

Young people's attitudes towards violence, drugs, alcohol and other social issues

David Chalke, Director, Quantum Research

For Australians, under-25s attitudes towards drugs, both legal and illegal, have remained largely unchanged over the last decade. There is evidence, however, that on some dimensions at least attitudes do moderate with age. Comparisons of the values of today's 18–25 year olds with those who were 18–25 in 2000 hint at an evolving maturity of outlook.

Plenary address 2

Challenging the culture of violence in the public and private domains

Deputy Commissioner Kieran Walshe, Victoria Police

In order to effectively address the levels of violence in the community, core beliefs and attitudes about violence must also be changed. Against the backdrop of alcohol-fuelled violence in Melbourne's CBD, this paper will discuss initiatives, policies and programs currently in place to curb the growing number of assaults. Such initiatives include Youth Resource officers, Safe Streets Taskforce and the Operations Response Unit.

Violence can also occur through irresponsible vehicle ownership and behaviours. Statistics will be provided that outline the extent of fatal and non-fatal collisions that occur as a result of such behaviours and the numbers of impoundments under 'hoon laws' will be outlined. In order to address the issue of safety on our roads, this paper will discuss measures taken to reach young people before they start driving, including joint initiatives with the Transport Accident Commission. The effectiveness of social media such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube in relaying these messages to young people will also be outlined.

Finally, increased reporting of domestic violence incidents will be examined against the backdrop of a more robust police response to this issue, including mandatory reporting. Two programs in particular aim to change the values and norms around this form of violence in the community—Violence Against Women and Children Strategy and the Code of Practice for Investigation of Family Violence. White Ribbon

Day is an opportunity for men to speak out against domestic violence and Victoria Police play a vital and supportive role in this initiative and spearhead the White Ribbon Ambassador Program.

Plenary address 3

Promoting messages to young people: Strategic approaches to reducing harm

John Fitzgerald, Executive Manager, Knowledge & Environments for Health, VicHealth

Traditional health promotion strategies tend to focus solely on social marketing. While social marketing is a keystone tool, often neglected are the strategies in which social marketing initiatives are embedded. Increasingly, those supporting strategic approaches to reducing harm are interested in integrated campaigns that operate across numerous communication channels, are multivocal and see target audiences not just as substance consumers, but as media consumers. All these features sound great however, the art of health promotion still needs to be balanced with the science, and in some cases these new approaches emerge without strong evaluation. Those in the business of promoting health need to look to experience in a range of places to find new ways to connect with young people in an effort to reduce harm.

Plenary address 4

Applying social marketing techniques to crime prevention and community safety

Dr Tom Carroll, Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, University of Sydney

The development and implementation of social marketing strategies has played a key role in population health programs in Australia over the last three decades. These have included strategies designed to increase participation in health protection behaviours (eg childhood immunisation), early detection programs (eg breast and cervical screening) and the promotion of individual health behaviour modification (eg HIV/AIDS, alcohol, tobacco and other drug issues). The social marketing approach incorporates a strong focus on formative research to gain a thorough understanding of the target audience's perspective on the issue being addressed.

It also seeks to achieve specific behavioural objectives by creating an intervention that engages the designated target audience and facilitates the target behavioural outcomes. Careful consideration of both competitive contextual influences and potential facilitators of the promoted behaviour also feature strongly in the design of social marketing strategies. This presentation undertakes a critical examination of the social marketing process and the potential for social marketing techniques to be applied to achieve crime prevention and community safety outcomes.

Plenary address 5

Child abuse: Pathways to the juvenile justice system

**Dr Adam Tomison, Director,
Australian Institute of Criminology**

The links between experiencing child abuse and child protection interventions and subsequently becoming involved in the criminal justice system are well known. Drawing on his experience in the child protection field, Dr Tomison will provide a critical overview of these links, with a particular focus on the role of drugs and alcohol and the need for early intervention.

Plenary address 6

Responding to alcohol misuse and improving community safety

**NSW Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione,
Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency**

Established in October 2007, Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) is a joint initiative of the Australian and New Zealand Police Ministers and Commissioners. ANZPAA provides strategic policy advice and secretariat services on cross-jurisdictional policing initiatives to help enhance community safety throughout Australia and New Zealand. ANZPAA is a non-operational policing agency. A key strategic priority for ANZPAA and the ANZPAA Board is to address the issue of alcohol misuse. ANZPAA has developed an Alcohol Misuse Strategy 2010–2012, which aims to improve community safety through promoting individual and social responsibility in the consumption of alcohol.

The strategy has two fundamental components—*advocacy* and *action*. The strategy encompasses the operational response, *action*, by police in Australia and New Zealand through targeted operations such as Operation Unite. The *advocacy* component is reflected in a commitment to

strengthen partnerships with the health and community sector to address the key drivers and precursors to alcohol misuse and abuse.

Commissioner Scipione will explore the key components of the strategy and the strategic direction of the ANZPAA Board in responding to alcohol misuse and improving community safety.

Plenary address 7

Preventing criminal justice outcomes associated with the use of cannabis

**Professor Jan Copeland, National Cannabis
Prevention and Information Centre**

While there is no clear direct causal link between cannabis use and criminal offending, other than those directly related to use, there is a need for universal and targeted prevention strategies in addition to improved screening, assessment and a range of interventions. Recent research indicates cannabis and other illicit substance use among Australian adolescents in the general population is declining. This trend, however, is not evident among specific subsections of the population, namely young people who spend time in juvenile detention, where rates of illicit substance use remain at extremely high levels by comparison. This paper will explore the relationship between cannabis use and crime and provide an overview of the range of prevention policy and practice responses.

Plenary address 8

Association between increased density of alcohol outlets and harmful outcomes

**Michael Livingston, Research Fellow,
Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre**

In recent decades, liquor licensing regulation has seen significant liberalisation across Australia, with the state of Victoria leading the way. Following two major reviews of licensing legislation in 1987 and 1998, the number of licensed outlets in the state has more than tripled. This presentation outlines the international literature examining the impact of increased physical availability of alcohol on a range of harms, including consumption, assault, family violence, drink-driving and injuries. In addition, the findings from a series of studies on data from Melbourne will be presented. The findings of these studies suggest a range of unintended consequences from Victoria's liberalisation of liquor regulation and pose questions about the future directions of licensing policy both in Victoria and nationally.

Concurrent abstracts

Concurrent session 1a —Violence and safety

Youth violence prevention approaches: Which ones work and how do we know?

Associate Professor Sheryl Hemphill, Senior
Researcher, Centre for Adolescent Health

Rachel Smith, Project Manager,
Centre for Adolescent Health

Many approaches have been developed to prevent young people from engaging in violent behaviour. Some of these programs target young people themselves, others target parents and families, and there are also programs for contexts such as schools and communities. Increasingly, programs target multiple contexts rather than just one. Some approaches are universal and others are targeted at young people considered at-risk of violent behaviour or already engaging in violent behaviour. With so many programs to choose from, it can be difficult to differentiate those that are most likely to be effective (and do no harm) from those that do not work and/or worsen behaviour. There are also common misconceptions about effective approaches. For example, 'get tough' approaches have intuitive appeal but have they been evaluated and are they effective?

This presentation will discuss violence prevention approaches that target the individual young person, as well as families, peers, schools and communities. The presentation will discuss approaches that currently have support for their effectiveness in preventing youth violence. This will include consideration (where possible) of the cost-effectiveness of these approaches. The key principals for effective prevention programs and the implementation of these programs will be described. Throughout the presentation, we will describe the methods and resources available to guide the selection of evidence-based effective programs. The importance of regularly monitoring and reviewing prevention approaches that are implemented will be emphasised.

Masculinity is dangerous— why gender is the key factor determining young people's violence

Stephen Fisher

Over the past five years, men from Pacific countries including Tonga, Fiji, PNG, the Cook Islands and Vanuatu have undertaken education and training as advocates for women's human rights. Week-long courses for groups of 20–40 men

have been provided under the auspices of the feminist-oriented Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. A range of practical workshop activities and processes designed to equip men in their role as advocates were developed and this work has recently been compiled in a *Male Advocates Training Handbook* which will be published in early 2011.

A professional development program for schools, entitled *Thinking Critically about Boys* was also developed and draws on feminist critical theory to understand cultures of masculinity and gender relations in the education sector. This work has led to the development of a number of key principles in approaching violence that are distinctive from many other approaches. Through PhD studies at Deakin University, the author is developing cogent critique of a dominant neo-liberal, health and risk management paradigm to frame much of the contemporary work in this area.

The solution and the source: Preventing violence through schools and youth-led change

Dr Lucas Walsh, Senior Executive
Research, Foundation for Young Australians

The first part of this discussion draws from recent research published by The Foundation for Young Australians into the impact of racism and homophobia upon the health, wellbeing and educational success of young people. The second part of this paper provides two examples of effective school-based initiatives to reduce young people's risk of disengagement and physical harm, and to increase their resilience.

The first initiative is outlined in a recently published resource entitled *Building Bridges: Creating a Culture of Diversity* and nominates schools as key sites to improve the wellbeing of young people experiencing racism. It provides a framework for effective positive 'whole of school' change in culturally diverse schools, drawing on parental and community involvement.

The second initiative, No Regrets, targets students in Years 9–11 and seeks not only to prevent individual acts of violence, but to generate lasting attitudinal change in communities by promoting respectful relationships, improving behaviour, tackling the root causes of violence and enhancing communication via youth-led initiatives. It is based upon the premise that young people must be involved and empowered in order to create social change and that community participation is essential if youth-led projects are to have maximum effect.

These two initiatives highlight the important role of schools and youth-led initiatives to reduce young people's risk and increase their resilience.

Adolescent violence within the continuum: Implications for early intervention

**Dr Colleen Bryant, Research Analyst,
Australian Institute of Criminology**

Criminal justice and community health initiatives, and the research that guides them, often concentrate on selected crime elements in the offending spectrum, be they offenders or victims, specific types of crime, young people or adults. The dissection of violent behaviours in this manner, while potentially yielding a more manageable and specialised approach, also contributes to fragmentary understandings and responses. This presentation uses a detailed analysis of police data, together with national and international research, to examine how the nature of interpersonal violent offending and victimisation evolves across the life course. Collectively, this research highlights that the majority of violence is not random, but rather arises in specific contexts, the nature of which is strongly related to the individual's social development and circumstances.

The presentation will use a social model of conflict to examine possible reasons that interpersonal violence appears to escalate in adolescence and demonstrate how our interpretation of this escalation is inherently shaped by child protection and criminal justices responses. Moreover, it highlights the need to consider the dynamic nature and complex nature of interpersonal violence in attempting to design interventions strategies that better meet the needs of young people, rather than attempting to retro-engineer youth justice research and responses based on ill-fitting, adult-based counterparts. In the process, gaps in our understandings of, and responses to, interpersonal conflict are highlighted, along with opportunities for future prevention strategies.

Concurrent session 1b —Drugs and alcohol

Research challenges with the ACT policing strategies for licensed premises project

**Lance Smith, Research Analyst,
Australian Institute of Criminology**

Over the past 18 months, the AIC has been working on a project in collaboration with ACT Police on policing strategies for licensed premises in entertainment precincts. In the early stages of the project, it became evident that there were limitations with the data being collected by police to monitor

the relationship between licensed premises and alcohol-related violence. It was therefore decided that multiple research methods would be required to provide sufficient data for establishing the extent of alcohol-related violence and the role played by licensed premises in the Canberra City area, before and after any policing strategies were trialled.

The chosen research methods included non-participant observation, an online survey and interviews with licensees. The observational methodology involved observations both outside and inside licensed premises (with the consent of licensees). A total of 20 hours pre- and post-intervention data collection was undertaken, with the findings from the observational research discretely documented by researchers. The online survey was developed for the general public and focused on perceptions of safety and experiences within Canberra's entertainment precincts. The survey was available on the AIC website and was advertised through both the print media and via social networking sites, including Facebook. Interviews with licensees were organised with approximately 10 licensees in the city and inner south regions of Canberra. All three methodologies posed challenges for the researchers working on this project and some valuable lessons were learned for possible future research.

So You Know—what price a big night out?

**Lisa Armstrong-Rowe, Community Development
Worker, City of Greater Geelong**

**Sergeant Shane Connolly, Geelong
Police Liquor Licensing Unit, Victoria Police**

The City of Greater Geelong, in conjunction with Victoria Police and Deakin University, have developed an awareness campaign to let young people know about the fines applicable to various offences, particularly those related to drinking in public, underage drinking and antisocial behaviour. 'So You Know' is a vibrant, colourful poster campaign designed for use in late night licensed venues, sporting clubs and even in schools.

The project was first implemented at Torquay in 2009 for the annual 'schoolies' week. It was seen as a successful strategy in making young people aware of the penalties for various offences. It was anticipated that by informing people upfront, as well as having a strong police presence, there should be a reduction in public order offences. The program was presented to the Geelong Local Safety Committee and it was felt that it could be successfully replicated in Geelong. The project is to be delivered in stages and will be aligned with other key projects such as Barwon Safe Parties.

The Geelong version has been designed for a local market and will be evaluated at each stage by Deakin University. This is in line with the City of Greater Geelong's commitment to evaluation and data collection that can be used to measure the effectiveness of programs.

This presentation will give an overview of the process and partnerships required to implement 'So You Know' and also some of the evaluation data from Deakin.

Smart choices: An early intervention initiative between NSW Police and Cessnock Council

Natalie Drage, Community Planning Coordinator, Cessnock City Council

Will Doran, Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Services Coordinator, Cessnock City Council

Senior Constable Michael Steele, Youth Liaison Police Officer, Central Hunter Command, NSW Police.

In considering an educative framework for crime prevention, the literature suggests that young people may benefit from increased knowledge of the risk factors associated with offending behaviours. This paper explores this premise and discusses whether an early-intervention crime prevention program can assist young people to develop skills that lessen the risk factors associated with youth offending behaviours. Called *Smart Choices*, this six hour pilot program was developed and delivered to 162 students, aged 12 to 13 years, within two secondary schools. The sessions were facilitated by experienced human service professionals. The key topics considered essential to engaging students in dialogue and learning included drugs, alcohol, violence and bullying. The pilot programs evaluated students' knowledge of the harms associated with alcohol and illegal drug use, along with changes in knowledge and attitudes upon program completion.

The majority of students felt the program empowered them to say no to drugs and alcohol and most (95%) felt they had learned something from the program. The practice implications suggest the school environment to be an appropriate setting to engage young people in early-intervention crime prevention education. Furthermore, a partnership model between police and local government enabled resourcing of *Smart Choices* and, as such, is recommended. Program analysis was completed by the University of Newcastle's commercial entity, Newcastle Innovation, Newstat.

Alcohol harm reduction: Initiatives for youth in small communities

Sergeant Antony Woodbridge, Oamaru Police, New Zealand Police

Andrew Galloway, Environments and Settings Manager, Alcohol Advisory Council of New Zealand

The Waitaki Area is a small community of around 1,500 people on the South Island of New Zealand. Alcohol is the leading cause of crime and car crashes in the community.

Over the Christmas period, tourism sees a dramatic increase in population, with some areas going from 500 people up to 10,000.

Parents of high school students approached police about youth drinking and a number of targeted initiatives were set up. Local police, council and health staff pooled resources and ideas and came up with rugby club sponsorship contracts where if players got into alcohol-fuelled trouble, they had to pay \$1,000 back into the sponsorship fund. Parent-youth contracts ensured a 'no questions asked' ride home at any time of the day or night.

DVDs personalised at a local level showed the results of alcohol misuse in the community, including interviews with parents and families who have lost their children as a result of incidents involving alcohol. Another DVD for drink drivers shows the very real and personal impact of their behaviour in a small community. Community feedback and engagement has been inspiring.

Concurrent session 1c—Youth and the criminal justice system

The Young Offender Risk Identification assessment screening tool

Natalie Gately, School of Law & Justice, at Edith Cowan University

In 2009, the WA Department of Corrective Services approached the researchers to develop a brief, valid and reliable screening tool to act as a 'triage' mechanism for young offenders. The tool needed to be based on research evidence and informed by operational expertise, with good reliability and predictive validity. The proposed screening tool would quickly and accurately determine risk categories, and distinguish between youth offenders requiring more or less intensive intervention. This would precede longer risk-assessment tools rather than replace them, thereby screening out young offenders at low risk of recidivism. The Young Offender Risk Identification screening tool (YORI) was based on Australian and international literature and retrospectively tested for predictive validity using 400 randomly selected Children's Court reports that included conviction details. Nineteen relevant risk factors were identified, with correlation and regression analyses reducing these to seven. The resultant screening tool was trialled in 2010 in metropolitan and regional locations in Western Australia, with a view to refining it before subjecting it to a two year testing period. This presentation discusses the development and preliminary findings of the YORI tool and its implication for work with young offenders.

Developing a performance indicator framework for juvenile justice services

Prue Holzer, Senior Research Analyst, Productivity Commission

Juvenile justice services aim to promote community safety by contributing to a reduction in the frequency and severity of youth offending, while recognising the rights of victims and young offenders. The *Report on Government Services 2009* introduced a performance indicator framework to measure the equity, efficiency and effectiveness of governments' delivery of juvenile justice services. This presentation will provide an overview of the development of the performance indicator framework (undertaken in collaboration with the Australasian Juvenile Justice Administrators and the Juvenile Justice Research and Information Group), describe the performance indicators currently included in the framework and present recent results, as well as discuss proposed future directions for reporting.

What makes juvenile offenders different from adult offenders?

Dr Kelly Richards, Research Analyst, Australian Institute of Criminology

Responding to juvenile offending is a unique policy and practice challenge. While a substantial proportion of crime is perpetuated by juveniles, most juveniles will 'grow out' of offending and adopt law-abiding lifestyles as they mature.

This paper outlines the factors (biological, psychological and social) that make juvenile offenders different from adult offenders and that necessitate unique responses to juvenile crime. It argues that a range of factors, including juveniles' lack of maturity, propensity to take risks and susceptibility to peer influence, as well as high levels of intellectual disability, mental illness and victimisation, increase juveniles' risks of contact with the criminal justice system.

Characteristics of young substance users and their attitudes towards seeking treatment

Danny Alcock, Youth Outreach Worker, TaskForce
Azusa Umemoto, Research Officer, TaskForce

Past studies have demonstrated that few young substance users seek help and often, treatment seekers have negative attitudes toward treatment seeking. This presentation will explore the characteristics of young people who sought treatment for substance abuse at TaskForce and their attitudes towards treatment.

From July 2009 to July 2010, approximately 125 young substance users aged 14 to 25 years sought treatment at TaskForce. The data was collected as a part of the TaskForce program evaluation. The results indicated that young substance users tended to have multiple issues, such

as unemployment, mental illness, homeless and social disengagement. Furthermore, many clients were not self-referred and only 22 percent sought treatment by themselves. Among those who sought treatment, 12 percent of clients dropped out of treatment.

Many young people who sought treatment for substance abuse were not ready to abstain from substance use and often had a bias that youth workers would tell them what to do. The strategies to retain young people in treatment involved building up trust in non-clinical settings and educating them about safe drug use. In the presentation, a skilled TaskForce youth worker will share his experience with a case study explaining the keys to engaging and retaining young people in substance use treatment.

Concurrent session 1d— Supporting young people

Community action on youth and drugs: Making a difference at the community level

Verne McManus, Massey University

**Pariri Rautahi, National
Coordinator, Massey University**

Community Action on Youth and Drugs (CAYAD) is a national initiative, funded by the Ministry of Health, that aims to reduce harm to young people from drugs and alcohol. There are currently 55 CAYAD coordinators working in 30 communities across New Zealand. CAYAD is the only initiative of its type in New Zealand focused on illegal drugs. It is based on international research on how to work effectively at a local level. It involves knowing what is happening at the grassroots and facilitating strategic action across community agencies and groups to make a difference. Change is targeted at policies, practices and environments, providing positive opportunities and sustainable outcomes for young people that result in positive behavioural changes. CAYAD is not an alcohol and drug treatment service but works at a preventive level in communities. Many of the CAYAD initiatives are based in communities with high Māori populations and use a Kaupapa Māori approach to address youth and drug issues within their communities. CAYAD also works with youth by focusing on further developing and strengthening communities. This plays a pivotal role in addressing problematic drug use for youth. Cultural and sporting activities are a key feature of this work. Findings from independent evaluations of the impacts of the CAYAD program include positive changes in young people's attitudes and behaviour, increased perception of harm from the use of drugs, changes in policies/practices of schools and sports clubs, decreases in drug-related school suspensions and decreased youth crime, as well as increased community capacity.

Christchurch City Council/Police youth project

**Stacey Holbrough, Youth Worker,
Christchurch City Council**

In 1996, there was a spate of violent incidents within the inner city of Christchurch, resulting in the young people of Christchurch marching to council to ask for help to establish a safer city. As a result, the combined Christchurch City Council (CCC) and Police Youth Project has been operational since February 1997. The unique nature of this project is the continuous partnership and collaboration between the CCC and Christchurch Police towards the project. The CCC employs three full-time Youth Workers and fulfils all employment and strategic needs. The Christchurch Police house the Youth Workers and employ a sworn Youth Liaison Officer to manage this project as well as provide day-to-day supervision.

The primary objective for the project has remained unchanged—being to actively promote a decrease in violent and criminal activity involving young people throughout the city and an increase in the positive opportunities available to these same young people. The Youth Workers receive referrals from Christchurch Police Youth Aid officers, and then meet and engage with the young people and their families, work with and support the young person and mentor and role model positive behaviour.

The team also works a street component of the project, patrolling one night a week within the central city and at community events that attracts vast numbers of young people. This involves visiting known hotspots and interacting with young people, making sure they are safe and well and where they should be. Having a police officer within the team gives greater scope and safety in dealing with young people. In a recent evaluation, feedback from the Youth Court Judge praised the varied roles the Youth Workers fulfil and the information they share with the judiciary.

Youth forum ‘Good choices, great life’

**Renee Bloomfield, Leading
Senior Constable, Victoria Police**

The youth forum, *Good Choices, Great Life*, is an annual event that has been operating since 2007. Each year, the forum is host to 2,000 Year 9 students from 12 secondary colleges in the Frankston Police Service area. The Youth Forum is held at Monash University (Frankston Campus), George Jenkins Theatre and surrounds. The Youth Forum is an early intervention and prevention strategy that aims to address the issues of adolescent risk taking behaviour, which includes substance use and the consequences (both victimisation and offending). The forum also provides secondary and tertiary education pathway information and highlights the community support services and interventions that are available to all students and their families.

Frankston Police have adopted current evidence based research in taking a ‘whole of community’ approach to address the issues of adolescent risk taking behaviour. Frankston Police in collaboration with a large number of stakeholders, host and facilitate the Youth Forum over annually over two days.

The forum is delivered using a harm minimisation approach, utilising a range of teaching pedagogy to ensure all students have the optimal opportunity to process information provided. The Youth Forum strategy adopts a ‘peers education’ model to enhance the likelihood of sustained outcomes regarding adolescent behaviour and attitudinal change. The Forum is complimented by the concluding comments of the 5th Australasian Drug Strategy Conference held in 2010, which highlighted the need to develop prevention strategies to inform young people of the risks related to substance use.

Alcohol diversion for underage youth: The Victorian Early Intervention Pilot Program (VEIPP)

**Kimberly Banfield, Project Coordinator,
VEIPP, Victoria Police**

**Karly Redwood, Project Coordinator,
VEIPP, Victoria Police**

Alcohol misuse among underage youth is a growing culture. Research shows that many underage people drink at alarmingly high levels. They are also significantly more likely to consume alcohol at riskier levels when in public places. Furthermore, there is currently an overrepresentation of young people in alcohol-related statistics; the Victorian Alcohol Action Plan (VAAP) reports that each year, 2,472 infringements are issued to minors for possession of alcohol and approximately 2,000 assaults involve alcohol-affected young people. In the City of Maroondah in Melbourne’s outer east, alcohol is the primary drug of concern, with studies showing 22.7 percent of secondary school students binge drinking regularly. The Victorian Early Intervention Pilot Program (VEIPP) is an alcohol diversion program which is being implemented in the City of Maroondah as part of a national pilot under the National Binge Drinking Strategy. It utilises a partnership approach between Victoria Police and the Department of Health with services provided by Eastern Access Community Health (EACH) and Turning Point. The VEIPP aims to tackle underage drinking and related health impacts. This presentation will detail what the VEIPP is and how it aims to reduce the risks to underage people from drinking alcohol. It will also cover how young people’s resilience will be increased through participation in a health education program. The VEIPP will allow young people to make positive, informed choices about their health and behaviour before it escalates into more sustained drinking patterns and/or alcohol-related offending.

Concurrent session 2a —Violence and safety

Young people and sexual violence: The challenges of prevention

**Emma Price, SAPPSS Coordinator,
CASA House, The Royal Women's Hospital**

Young people are significantly less likely to rate some forms of physical violence as 'very serious'. This lack of understanding about the serious consequences of violence may result in a greater willingness to not only accept violence, but to risk participating in it. Violence is a perennial problem for our community and some young people, like many of their elders, are participating in risky and/or violent activity. It is the role of the wider community, including schools, to provide young people with safe environments and to empower them to make informed judgements and decisions about their behaviour. Since 2004, CASA House has delivered their Sexual Assault Prevention Program for Secondary Schools (SAPPSS) to over 4,600 young people in Years 9 and 10 across Australia. SAPPSS is a whole-school model that includes a six week student program. Feedback from young people shows they appreciate learning and discussing topics including violence, consent, respectful relationships and sexual assault in a safe, respectful and non-judgemental environment. They become enthusiastic about challenging violence-supporting attitudes. Many of the participants say that this is the first time they have had the opportunity to talk about such important matters. Providing young people with information and an opportunity to discuss violence and its individual and societal impacts builds resilience to resist and reject violence-supporting attitudes and behaviours. This process is vital in early intervention and primary prevention. In this workshop, CASA House will demonstrate their approach to engaging young people in violence prevention through open communication.

Y-Safety? A question and answer forum between young people and stakeholders

**Mary Ashe, Manager, Alcohol Projects,
Injury Control Council of WA (Inc)**

The Y-Safety forum was an initiative by ICCWA for community safety stakeholders to engage directly with young people to enhance their understanding of young people's perceptions and community safety priorities. Y-Safety was held in Bunbury, a regional city two hours south of Perth, Western Australia. Project aims include providing opportunities for community safety stakeholders to engage directly with young people to improve their understanding of young people's perceptions and community safety priorities; providing opportunities for young people to personally present their community safety perspectives to community stakeholders in the local area; to

recognise young people as equal partners in the process of community change and capacity building; and to allow stakeholders to hear firsthand what local young people's actual versus perceived needs really are and therefore inform the development and implementation of more targeted services for young people in Bunbury. Y-Safety used a question and answer model. A panel of young people aged 12 to 25 years, from diverse social backgrounds answered questions from an audience of community safety stakeholders. An experienced facilitator was engaged to work with the young people leading up to the seminar to help them articulate their community safety priorities and concerns. Similar safety priorities, such as alcohol, drugs, violence and mental health, were consistently identified across all age groups and recommendations were made to address safety challenges. Y-Safety helped promote positive perceptions of young people and highlight how young people can contribute to improving safety in the community.

City Safety: Putting Young People into Perspective

**Dean Griggs, Manager Community
Safety and Wellbeing, City of Melbourne**

Cr Jennifer Kanis, Melbourne City Council

The City of Melbourne is currently home to around 30,000 young people aged 12 to 25 years, accounting for approximately one-third of residents. Students account for just under half the city's resident population. In addition, large numbers of young people visit the city during the week and at weekends to work, study, shop and meet friends. Over the past few years, the City of Melbourne has experienced an increase in drug and alcohol-related crime and violence in the municipality. Analysis of local reported crime and hospitalisation data highlighted that a large majority of victims and offenders were young adult males aged between 20–29 years. Furthermore, many of these offenders and victims reside outside the municipality. We have been working closely with young people and key government and community agencies to understand and respond to this increase in crime and violence. Our approach has included a combination of primary prevention and early intervention strategies—policies include Empowering Young People: Young People's Policy, Strategy for a Safer City, Policy for the 24 Hour City and Melbourne Licensees Forum Action Plan. Programs include Your City Your Space On Line Safety Forum, Melbourne Respects—youth engagement project, Grogger Don't Get Smashed, The Couch—International Student Centre, Youth and City Safety Grants and Youth Street Teams. In our consultation with young people, they have informed us that they want to be seen, heard and valued, feel safe and welcome, see positive and realistic images of themselves portrayed in the media, know how to access youth-friendly

services and supports when needed, be involved in planning and running activities, participate more in decisions that impact on their lives and know their rights. These needs and interests are at the heart of our policies and programs and ensure their success.

Rock and Water violence prevention program

Ray Messer, Master Instructor, Rock and Water Program, The Family Action Centre

Rock and Water is a program that has been taught to over 10,000 teachers and youth workers in Australia. The program is so popular because it engages boys particularly well through physical activities, while challenging their beliefs about violence. Many young people, when faced with anxiety, fear or doubt, default to anger and aggression. The physicality of adolescence and the practical nature of the program are weaved together to uncover 'diamonds of wisdom' inside each of the participants.

In Rock and Water, the student learns to find alternatives to anger or withdrawal, by developing self-confidence, improving self-esteem and learning to reflect on their experiences. The program uses physical exercises, self-defence components and romping exercises to promote communication, self-reflection and mental integrity. Rock and Water is taught in both primary and secondary schools and youth organisations.

This workshop will provide an overview of the Rock and Water Program and teachers will participate in some of the Rock and Water exercises, such as standing strong, understanding boundaries, negotiation skills using Rock and Water principles and avoiding conflict with dignity. The language of Rock and Water will be explored and the ways in which a whole school/organisational approach can be adopted, with several case studies for consideration.

Concurrent session 2b—Drugs and alcohol

Khat: An emerging drug concern in Australia

Associate Professor Mohamed Abdalla, Director, Griffith Islamic Research Unit, Griffith University

Abdi Hersi, PhD Candidate and Research Assistant, Griffith University

Khat (*Catha edulis*) is a natural amphetamine plant whose effects are similar to those produced by other known psycho-stimulants such as amphetamine and its congeners. Khat is indigenous to Yemen, Ethiopia and East Africa, and is the new emerging drug in a number of countries in the West,

including Australia. Literature on the consumption of khat generally focuses on the effects it has on communities in terms of consumption, trade and cultivation of the stimulant plant from botanical, pharmacological, social and economic perspectives. Little is written on the Islamic legal perspective on the consumption of khat, with the exception of few internet blogs and a number of Islamic websites giving a decree about its legality. This gap is, in part, due to the failure to detect the extent to which consumers of khat relate the habit of chewing it to religion and culture. Given that there is a strong association between Muslims and the consumption of khat, the purpose of this paper is to examine khat from an Islamic legal perspective using primary and secondary sources of Islamic legislation. The findings can help policymakers in Australia and other interested parties appreciate the spiritual dimensions of the debate and its possible impact on any regulatory frameworks.

Ethnicity, drugs and the changing face of Melbourne's dance party/club scene

Christine Siokou, Researcher, Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University

The relationship between ethnicity and the use of party drugs (eg, methamphetamine and ecstasy) has received little attention in Australia. This presentation will briefly review the Australian and international literature on the topic then summarise my previous doctoral research which shows the way that ethnic stereotypes are used within the Melbourne rave/dance party scene. The young people who participated in my research, many of whom were long-time dance party attendees, or 'old skool ravers', frequently made claims to the possession of subcultural capital by labelling as 'muzzas' those they perceived to be outsiders to the dance scene. Muzzas were defined as heavily-muscled young men, commonly of Southern European or Middle Eastern background, who used cocaine and steroids, had 'no class' and danced in an overly aggressive way. Although the old skool ravers were often from similar ethnic backgrounds to muzzas, they rarely drew on ethnicity in forming their own identities. They did, however, explicitly invoke ethnicity in the distinctions they created between themselves and muzzas. Their claims to subcultural capital are based on notions of nostalgia and an authentic involvement in the dance scene, and on their perceived distance from a mainstream culture consisting of 'normal people'.

To conclude I will open the floor to discussion on how cross-cultural perspectives may generate insights into ethnicity and party drug use? In what ways does ethnic background and the construction of ethnic identity shape the use of party drugs?

What's behind the common risk-taking practice & help seeking behaviours of regular ecstasy users?

**Sheena Arora, Research Officer,
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre**

The regular use of club drugs by youth is associated with acute and long-term negative health consequences primarily due to associated 'polydrug using'. Polydrug use has been linked to psychological and physical risks—drug dependence, decreased cognitive functioning, psychiatric co-morbidity, criminal activity, violence, overdose and death. Despite the risks, regular users of these drugs are typically a difficult group to engage in treatment and health initiatives, and very rarely seek help for problems associated with their drug use.

The Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS) is an Australian national study examining current use and trends in ecstasy and other club drug use and harms among a sample of regular ecstasy users (REU). Through interviews of approximately 700 REU, the EDRS collected information regarding the motivations for continued use of ecstasy and related drugs, the mental, physical and social problems experienced by this group related to their use and help seeking behaviours.

Of the participants, over one-quarter self-reported they had experienced a mental problem in the last six months, mainly depression and anxiety. Approximately one in five participants reported overdosing on a stimulant drug during their lifetime, with over half reporting that this had occurred in the last year. The majority of participants reported overdosing on a stimulant drug either at home, a friend's home or in a nightclub. Around one-third of participants in the national sample also reported that their drug use had put themselves or others at risk. Only one-quarter of the participants reported accessing a health service, mainly a GP. The paper stresses the high prevalence of problematic behaviours and issues regularly faced by this group. As a consequence, there is a need for targeted interventions by policymakers, researchers and health professionals for treatment as well as educational and preventative initiatives, to target the sources (and venues) that this group is currently and likely to engage with.

For better or worse: Exploring the centrality of relationships in client narratives, and considerations for outcomes evaluation

**Rachel Green, PhD candidate,
National Drug Research Institute**

There is a pressing need to demonstrate evidence-based practice in child and youth services. However, for young people whose difficulties are multiple and inter-related, clinical indicators of treatment 'success' may not meaningfully

reflect the work of practitioners, nor resonate with clients perspectives of their needs, or their goals. This qualitative study sampled 42 current Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS) clients aged 15–21 years and aimed to gain a greater insight into how client perspectives can inform development of outcome measures. Inquiry was guided by two key questions—what do clients identify as their needs and how do they express this and in what ways has YSAS helped, or how could they potentially help to address these needs?

Thematic analysis found that, despite the inter-relatedness of key domains of participants lives, a common element of espoused need was 'feeling supported'. Relationships were positioned as pivotal to alcohol and other drug use, crime and violence, and psycho-social wellbeing. Further, stable, consistent and trusting relationships (often with workers) were the vehicle for addressing multiple issues. These findings validate the relevance of a social-ecological model in services targeting this group, of relationship-centred practice and need for attention to relationship-focused therapeutic interventions (eg family focus therapy) in addressing critical areas such as alcohol and drug use, violence and improving health and wellbeing. Moreover, findings suggest the need to incorporate subjective experiences of relationships (eg feeling supported, connected) in the development of outcome measures that are therapeutically useful, appropriate to clients and that will enhance assessment, evaluation and practice improvement efforts.

Concurrent session 2c—Youth and the criminal justice system

Uncouth youth? Building a profile of young offenders in Perth Children's Court, 1994–2009

**Jennifer Fleming, Researcher,
Edith Cowan University**

National and international research indicates that many young offenders have poor environmental living conditions and an increased exposure to negative risk factors conducive to offending or antisocial behaviour. Currently, there is a paucity of research monitoring these risk factors, although the information exists in the form of an offender's personalised court report. Over the last two decades several key pieces of legislation have been enacted, such as the *Young Offenders Act 1994* (WA), the *Cannabis Control Act* (2003) and the accompanying Cannabis Infringement Notice Scheme. These have been suggested as impacting youth behaviour. This project aimed to identify the correlates and risk factors involved in youth offending in Western Australia using a content analysis of existing court reports at five year intervals from 1994 to 2009. This project involved random selection of

400 court reports in order to provide an in-depth analysis of a child's personal living conditions, education levels, substance use, health and overall situation as described by their youth justice officer. The findings enabled a picture of young offenders to emerge and identified the demographic and criminological profile of juvenile offenders in Western Australia. This information will be used to inform the industry to make procedural and policy recommendations.

Prevention through connection: Restorative practices and family community group conferencing

Kevin Mack, Leading Senior Constable, Victoria Police

Community concerns about young people and crime, substance use, violence, dropping out of school and other antisocial behaviour frequently result in calls for 'something to be done' to, or about, young people. Consequences of not doing so are often described in terms of community safety, costs of dealing with unemployment, relationship breakdown, homelessness, health and injury, incarceration, policing, damage to self, others and property, and service delivery. This interactive presentation will lead participants through theory and practical activities drawn from a community partnership that is pioneering exciting new ways of addressing such concerns in a regional Victorian city. The partners include police, justice department, school networks, community health, child protection, local government and university researchers. Case studies will be used to outline the effective nature of partnerships and the positive outcomes of Restorative Practice Conferencing when used across silos. These case studies will also attest to the effectiveness of this conferencing in a police, justice and school setting, where positive outcomes were only achievable through effective partnership involvement.

The alignment of the restorative justice/family conferencing community group conferencing model is presently unique to Wodonga but has wide-reaching applications. By using restorative practice and family community group conferencing, this project is building relationships to break the cycle of offending, disengagement and disadvantage. This presentation will be of interest to policymakers, police, school leaders and practitioners interested in the development of young people within strong communities. It will outline the approach taken and present stories of how the police, schools and community partnerships have already created positive outcomes for young people, their families and the community.

Diversion and support for young people in Victoria

**Jeremy Cass, Managing Lawyer,
Youth Legal Service—Victoria Legal Aid**

The Attorney-General of Victoria has convened a steering committee to provide advice to government on a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to the diversion of young people. The aims of the steering committee are as follows—scope a coordinated and comprehensive approach to diversion for young people from the mainstream criminal justice system and consider the role that new or proposed government initiatives might have within a coordinated and comprehensive approach to diversion and support services.

Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) is a representative on this steering committee which met for the first time on 18 May 2010. Justifications for diverting young people from the formal criminal justice processes, including diversionary programs, have the potential to reduce the criminogenic effects of the justice system on subsequent criminal behaviour, where diversion avoids unnecessary negative labelling and stigmatisation. Interaction with the formal justice system may limit access to educational and employment opportunities and diversion is more likely to be swift, reducing the delay between apprehension and sentencing which may result in the process being more relevant to the young person. Less formal processes are more easily understood by young people and increase their participation and engagement in the process and diversion has greater potential to use restorative approaches. VLA's in-house practice represents 50 percent of children appearing before the Children's Court in Victoria. With our specialist knowledge in representing children in the criminal justice system and our involvement in the steering committee, VLA propose to present the most update developments in the area of diversion.

Crime, choices and consequences: Preventative intervention at work in reoffending youth

Karen Hart, General Manager, The Youth Junction Inc

Young people aged between 18 and 29 years make up 59.4 percent of defendants appearing before the Victorian Courts. Currently, most of the options for low level offences are penalty-based, with little opportunity for the Magistrates to attach options that will address the underlying complexities that have led to a young person's involvement in at-risk behaviour. The Crime, Choices and Consequences Program (CCCProgram) is a model of early intervention designed to mobilise the tenets of diversion for young people aged 18-25 years. It offers the Magistrates' courts, police and legal representatives a clear and straightforward referral point to assist young people to successfully avoid placing themselves in high risk situations that may lead to further involvement in

the justice system. The program includes two key aspects. First, is participation in P.A.R.T.Y (Prevent Alcohol & Risk Related Trauma in Youth Program) at The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, which is an in-hospital full day experience of the possible traumatic consequences of risk-related behaviour. Second is a three month follow-up at the Visy Cares Hub, Sunshine, where young people undergo a comprehensive assessment, so that the co-located services are able to construct a tailor-made package of legal and community services to respond appropriately and adequately to the individual needs of that young person.

A pilot of the CCCProgram, undertaken in 2010, has been evaluated and the initial results suggest that there is a benefit to the participants in attending both the P.A.R.T.Y Program and the Visy Cares Program in sequence. We anticipate undertaking more expansive research commencing in 2011 to measure rates of recidivism and other key outcome impacts on participants in a randomised controlled trial.

Concurrent session 2d—Workshop

DRUMBEAT: building resilience through rhythm

**Simon Faulkner, Manager
DRUMBEAT, Holyoake Institute**

DRUMBEAT (Discovering Relationships Using Music, Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes and Thoughts) is an early intervention program, specifically designed to engage young people who are averse to talk-based therapies. DRUMBEAT combines experimental learning strategies with cognitive behavioural therapy to increase resilience, explore relationship issues, improve social skills, raise self-esteem and reduce social isolation. DRUMBEAT has been incorporated into the therapeutic practices of mental health services, drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinics and prisons. It is in use in over 300 schools across Australia and New Zealand. The program directly targets key 'risk factors' identified in drug and alcohol research literature, that are associated with detrimental health, education and social outcomes. These include alienation, low levels of emotional intelligence, social skill deficits, low self-esteem, anxiety and depression, poor school attendance and low levels of emotional regulation. Evaluations of the program have been completed since its inception including longitudinal studies. These have found consistent increases in self-esteem, self-confidence, mood and levels of cooperation, concentration and pro-social behaviour. They have also found decreases in anxiety, school absenteeism and behavioural incidents. This workshop will give a hands-on look at how the DRUMBEAT program transfers social learning through the teamwork process and the exploration of relationship issues using hand drumming as a means of engagement and as a tool for analogy and metaphor.

Concurrent session 3a— Perceptions of young people

'Come over, there's a fight!' youth violence, conflict triggers and cultural diversity in Melbourne's inner west

**Michele Grossman, Associate
Dean (Research), Victoria University**

This paper draws on recent research conducted by Victoria University and Victoria Police that explores what young people aged 15–19 from a low socioeconomic status, high cultural diversity region in Melbourne's inner west (n=500) have said about the most frequent triggers for escalating verbal arguments and conflicts among young people to physical confrontation and full scale brawls. Our study found commonly identified triggers for both young men and women related to issues around reputation, peer pressure, image and negotiating relationships; however, additional significant triggers for young Sudanese and Pacific Islanders in the study (n=47) included kinship obligations and racial taunting by peers. The study also identified differing approaches to conflict management among various sub-cohorts of young people. The paper explores the benefits of an education-focused, diversity-sensitive approach to conflict management and violence minimisation strategies and skills using a partnership model between police and young people at the community level.

Indigenous footprints along the career journey

**Lianne Britten, PhD Psychology
candidate, Macquarie University**

Career transitions from secondary school can be a time of challenge and change for all young people. During this time Indigenous and immigrant youth, often face difficulties related to further education, employment and sometimes prejudice. Often high rates of unemployment, low rates of high school graduation, drug and alcohol abuse, high suicidality and other difficulties faced by non-mainstream youth lead to negative general opinions of these populations. Consequently, these concepts of career development and non-mainstream culture have rarely been researched as one phenomenon. Even rarer is research with Indigenous and migrant youth. Resultantly, concepts of 'career', 'success', 'transition' and 'career development' for these populations may not fit with popularised Western paradigms of research. This underscores the crucial importance of highlighting stories from young non-mainstream role models to sustain and promote the future success of all society. Our study will attempt to shed light on some of the factors that help and hinder Indigenous and migrant youth in making a successful transition from school to post-secondary life and fill a notable gap in literature. A sample of up to 40 Indigenous and

immigrant young adults aged 18 to 29 years will be interviewed using critical incident technique. Findings from this research will be relevant to a range of settings including career counselling services, multicultural counselling, therapy for youth at risk, school counselling and group therapy.

Examination of the 'myth of entitlement' beliefs of young people

Sharan Kraemer, Lecturer/Researcher, School of Law and Justice, Edith Cowan University

The media would have us believe that youth drug use is worse than ever, alcohol use greater, the age of first use of substances younger, the obsession with celebrity and partying endless and the lack of restraint extreme. Public perception is of a 'myth of entitlement'. It is normal that young people rebel against the limits imposed on them. If they have wide limits, their rebellion will be even wider. If there are no limits, the rebellion is extreme. They push against whatever boundary they have. This is a well-understood motivation for their drug and alcohol use. But is their use of drug and alcohol is more extreme and more dangerous than ever before?

This paper examines whether young people have bought into the 'myth of entitlement' and believe that it is their right to have as much fun as they can, it is their right to stay out as long as they want on a 'school night', it is their right to get away from parents who will not give them freedoms even though they are only 12 or 13. Do they see images of their idols living wild uncontrolled lives and aspire to that? Are there fewer controls in place from families or schools or society? Or do young people have no self-control and no role models in their lives to help them realise the risks that their behaviour presents? This presentation examines current literature and highlights the perception of entitlement as a risk factor for increased substance abuse.

Our space, safe place: Young people's perceptions of safety in difference public spaces

Mary Ashe, Manager, Alcohol Projects, Injury Control Council of WA (Inc)

Our Space, Safe Place (OSSP) is a creative research project that aims to survey young people about the importance of safety in public places in the community that are important to them. Young people will create art, photography and prose to communicate their perceptions of safety in public spaces— what makes them feel safe or unsafe, what can be done to make these spaces feel safer and how to develop spaces where young people feel valued and connected to their community. Project findings will inform both government and non-government agencies as well as community groups who

work across community safety-related sectors to influence future policies, program development and service delivery for young people. Core project findings are likely to link with issues of alcohol, drugs and violence. The project aims to engage young people from 12–25 years across a diverse range of social and cultural backgrounds and features five components— steering group of young people to help plan core project strategies and events; workshops for young people with professional artists, photographers and writers to develop skills and workshop ideas; arts exhibition, to display young people's art in the community and promote positive perceptions of young people; development of a sustainable resource for community safety stakeholders; and presentations of project findings, by young people, to community safety stakeholders. Although the project doesn't conclude until June 2011, by March 2011 project workshops, surveys and the exhibition will be complete, with the majority of project findings clear.

Concurrent session 3b —Drugs and alcohol

SSMART Work: Building resilience to tackle alcohol-related harm

Jodie Downey, Strengthening Generations Community Development Project Officer, City of Ballarat

The Surviving Substance Misuse and Alcohol Risk Taking (SSMART) Network is a City of Ballarat Strengthening Generations working party addressing alcohol-related harm for young people. It is a working network with 10 local community and government agencies, collaborating to work on two prevention initiatives that use an evidence-based approach and focus on harm minimisation.

SSMART ASSK is an experiential learning program for Year 9 students across Ballarat and the region. The program is held at a licensed venue. The students enter the venue and in small groups travel through 'learning stations covering alcohol, impacts of harmful drinking and other drugs, understanding risk and party first aid. To conclude, students convene for a live theatre experience, giving students the opportunity to think about real life scenarios.

SSMART Answers is a bi-annual two day conference event involving young people, families and local community services. Participants focus on solutions to issues of binge drinking and risk-taking behaviour, using a variety of conversation and arts-based mediums. The event explores critical issues of communication and family conflict associated with alcohol use and unsafe partying and ways to build

resilience of young people and families. The event is the culmination of a series of meetings, workshops and forums held in local secondary schools to encourage dialogue. In its process and outcome, the event aims to build the capacity of the community to discuss and develop local solutions to their issues.

Changes in drug use patterns among two birth cohorts of young police detainees

**Jason Payne, Research Manager,
Australian Institute of Criminology**

Recently, the AIC has been engaged in a number of birth cohort analyses of police detainees, using data from the Drug Use Monitoring Australia (DUMA) program. DUMA collects data on police detainees from several Australian jurisdictions and the current research focuses on 18–25 year old offenders surveyed through DUMA in the years 2000 and 2009.

The drug use and offending patterns of young offenders are of interest to policymakers, as many Australian policies and programs are aimed at addressing substance use problems among young offenders and diverting offenders with substance dependency from the criminal justice system into rehabilitation.

The speaker will present an overview of findings from stage one of the research on sample differences between the two cohorts of young police detainees, which includes an examination of differences in ethnic background, level of education, employment status and housing situation between the two cohorts.

Alcohol-related drowning deaths in young people of Victoria, 2000–2009

Sarah Grace, Research Assistant, Life Saving Victoria

Young people, males in particular, are more likely to partake in risky drinking behaviours, including entering the water after consuming alcohol, increasing the risk of drowning. There has been increasing evidence to confirm the connection between risk of drowning and alcohol use during aquatic recreational activities; however, the true extent of alcohol involvement in Victorian adolescent drowning deaths is unknown, as this information is not routinely collected. Blood alcohol levels are currently only known for just over half of all drowning data held by Life Saving Victoria and this is a major limitation to current drowning prevention strategies within Victoria.

A systematic review will be conducted on the available literature relating to alcohol use during recreational aquatic activity to determine all contributing factors in alcohol-related drowning. The Coroners Prevention Unit will conduct a case series of all unintentional drowning deaths reported to the

Victorian Coroner from January 2000 to December 2009. Each death will be examined using the CPU database, coroner's findings and toxicological reports to collect demographics, location and activity at time of incident, presence of alcohol and contribution of alcohol to the drowning according to coroner's findings. The compiled drowning data will be analysed for each age group, with particular focus on the target group (12–29 years).

Conclusion: The results of this project will be used to make recommendations for the development and implementation of alcohol awareness and education interventions that are able to be targeted at the most appropriate audiences. There is also the potential to use this information to influence legislative decisions to further prevent alcohol related drowning.

This is a collaborative project of Life Saving Victoria and the Coroners Prevention Unit of the Coroners Court of Victoria

Preventing adolescent uptake of alcohol and drugs: adolescent violence in the home—the missing link

**Jo Howard, Social Worker and
Family Therapist, Peninsula Health**

Recent attention has focused on the relationship between alcohol and drug use and youth violence, with a strong emphasis on violence outside the family home (eg in nightclubs). This presentation explores the little acknowledged relationship between adolescent violence in the home—against parents, siblings and other family members—and adolescent alcohol and drug use. While alcohol and drug use does not cause adolescents to use violence, it contributes to increased family conflict and relationship breakdown which, in turn, influences adolescents' intake of alcohol and drugs. Parents report conflict relating to their adolescents' substance use also precipitates, and may increase, the severity of the violence.

This presentation will explore the benefits of working with adolescents and parents to stop the adolescents' use of violence and consequently their intake of alcohol and drugs. A youth diversionary response to adolescent violence in the home provides a window of opportunity for prevention of adolescent use of drugs and alcohol and a mechanism to engage adolescents who use alcohol and drugs and would not otherwise engage with 'the helping professions'. This response pays particular attention to healing family relationships, building adolescent resilience, strengthening parenting and promoting the safety and wellbeing of family members. The presentation concludes that a stronger focus on the co-occurring issues of adolescent violence in the home and adolescent use of alcohol and drugs will reduce the risk of adolescent alcohol and drug use and build adolescent resilience across a number of related domains.

Concurrent session 3c —Violence and safety

Consequences of cyber bullying in Victorian students: A longitudinal study

**Dr Aneta Kotevski, Researcher,
Centre for Adolescent Health**

There is much concern about the impact of cyber bullying on young people. While some studies exploring the early predictors of cyber bullying are beginning to emerge, there is little understanding of the consequences of cyber bullying. This paper draws on a unique and rich data set from the International Youth Development Study, which began in 2002 as a longitudinal study of almost 6,000 students recruited in Years 5, 7 and 9 in Victoria, Australia and Washington State, United States. Comprehensive measures of the many factors that influence student behaviour have been collected, as well as assessments of cyber bullying from 2006. This presentation will use Year 9 data and Year 11 data from almost 1,000 Victorian students aged 14–15 and 16–17 years respectively, to investigate the longitudinal consequences of cyber bullying such as police arrests, theft, suspensions, violent behaviour, binge drinking and drug use. Analyses of the consequences of cyber bullying from 2006 to 2008 will be described. The implications of these findings for the prevention of cyber bullying perpetration will be discussed.

Predicting area level trends for youth alcohol-related assaults and hospital admissions in Victoria

**Professor John Toumbourou,
School of Psychology, Deakin University**

A number of recent studies have reported increases in youth violent offending and alcohol-related harm. Although the reason for these increases are unknown, higher levels of adolescent alcohol use, degraded social development environments (family, school and community problems), socioeconomic disparity and liquor licensing proliferation have all been posited as potential contributors. This paper presents a secondary data analysis to explore predictors of area-level trends recorded in police and hospital records in Victoria. Rates of alcohol-related assaults and hospital admissions were broken down by metropolitan municipality and non-metropolitan regions enabling analysis of 36 geographic units. Predictors included the prevalence of adolescent-reported alcohol use, adolescent perceptions of social development environments (based on the 1999 statewide Victorian Health and Wellbeing Survey a variant of the Communities That Care youth survey), social disadvantage (based on ABS 2001 Census data) and liquor license density. Regression analyses predicted area-level

trends for police records of alcohol-related assaults and hospital records of alcohol-related admissions in Victoria in 2001–04. Analyses were completed in collaboration with researchers from the Centre for Adolescent Health (Murdoch Children's Research Centre at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne) and the Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre.

Increasing the effectiveness and reach of violence prevention among boys and young men

**Dr Michael Flood, Lecturer, Sociology,
Faculty of Arts, University of Wollongong**

Violence prevention involving boys and young men is gaining momentum in Australia. This paper aims to increase the effectiveness and reach of such work, in two ways. First, I outline best practice in violence prevention among boys and men, based on Australian and international experience. Second, I explore how to scale up this work, engaging boys and young men in progress towards gender equality more generally. In Australia, early efforts involving men in grassroots activism and educating boys in schools have now been complemented by social marketing campaigns, national networks and the development and implementation of violence prevention curricula in schools, communities and sporting contexts.

In Australia, and much more so internationally, there is a substantial body of experience in engaging boys and men in violence prevention. Some of this has been documented, and some has been evaluated, with mixed results. I synthesise this experience and evaluation to identify good practice in violence prevention, offering an assessment of contemporary Australian efforts, and situating this within a broader framework of primary prevention. In terms of the second contribution, I focus on the challenges of getting large numbers of boys and young men to take small steps towards non-violence and gender justice, and the ways in which work with boys and men can be institutionalised and propagated. I identify key processes and settings through which to address boys' and young men's roles in building non-violence.

Frankston Police & Community Youth Assist Program

**Renee Bloomfield, Leading
Senior Constable, Victoria Police**

The Frankston Police and Community Youth Assist Program (YAP) is an early intervention initiative in addressing youth/crime issues. The program strives to prevent the onset of criminal behaviours or reduce recidivism. Simultaneously, the program aims to enhance the health and wellbeing of young people and to encourage sustainable education and employment pathways. YAP operates within existing funding of Victoria Police.

The social determinants of health that influence adolescents have been reviewed to understand the impact to antisocial and criminal behaviour. Crime is a complex issue and therefore police, through the YAP, have engaged with an extensive range of community partners.

Professional knowledge is explored to enhance traditional and contemporary policing methods to create positive outcomes for young people, the community and police. The YAP assists in 'modernising justice' in line with the Attorney General's *Justice Statement 2004–2014* and supports this through the application of therapeutic jurisprudence principles which treat with the underlying causes of the risk presented.

The program has provided a definition for at-risk youth and has developed a systemic approach to identifying these young people and providing individually tailored support and interventions. The YAP reports at the micro level on health, wellbeing, education and recidivism outcomes. The YAP has been evaluated by Melbourne University Youth Research Centre and the Victorian Government Pilot, Better Youth Services. Both quantitative and qualitative information was analysed. Both reports highlight the success of the program. In 2009, the YAP received the Police Award for the Australian Crime and Violence Prevention Awards, hosted by the AIC.

Concurrent session 3d—Youth and the criminal justice system

Cognitive self-change with high-risk juvenile offenders

**Richard Parker, Program Manager:
Sex Offender, Violent Offender and Offending
Behaviour Programs, Juvenile Justice NSW**

Intervening with high-risk juveniles presents several dilemmas. As they are entrenched in an antisocial lifestyle with similar peers, they are likely to strenuously resist efforts to change them. Treatment is unlikely to be successful when it becomes a battle of wills—ultimately the person being treated will assert their self-determination in the best manner they can. Attempts to motivate them to engage in treatment falls victim to the same trap, as the young person recognises the purpose of the intervention and resists change.

Cognitive skills programs attempt to circumvent this problem by teaching skills to replace the participant's thinking deficits (impulsivity, lack of problem solving skills etc) rather than directly targeting the antisocial thinking at the core of their offending behaviour. However, these programs face the problem of attrition, due to the sequential nature of the skills and the tactics of non-compliance by antisocial youth.

Cognitive Self Change (CSC) is being piloted by Juvenile Justice NSW as a solution to this dilemma. CSC uses a rolling group structure to teach the skills of change, where the participants remain in charge of their own destiny. Integral to CSC, the Strategy of Choice is used to directly target the antisocial thinking, which both sabotages treatment and fuels offending. The Strategy of Choices challenges the young person to fully participate in the program or to leave treatment, disabling the commonly used tactic of pseudo cooperation. Such an approach requires all parts of the system to act in concert.

The youth unit at Port Phillip Prison

**Anne Hooker, Youth Development
Officer, Port Phillip Prison**

The youth unit at Port Phillip Prison in Victoria was established in 1999 to assist in reducing the risk of suicide and self harm in young prisoners. Since 1999, the purpose the unit has further evolved and is unique for a number of different reasons. First, it recognises the vulnerability of young offenders within a prison environment in terms of environment, social, individual and health-related issues. Second, it provides a safe and secure environment for young, vulnerable and often first-time offenders. Finally, it provides a suite of programs and activities that address offending behaviour and behavioural changes that will increase the likelihood of young offenders returning to the community and leading a pro-social lifestyle. The majority of research into 'what works' with reducing reoffending for young offenders looks at programs that address offending behaviour as a 'stand-alone' component to reducing crime in this age group. The youth unit's philosophy is to expand this model and deliver programs in a more holistic way that encompass four main areas—offending behaviour, personal development, employment and leisure and recreation. Risk factors for young offenders that increase the likelihood of further offending include age at first offence, drug use, mental health issues, family stability, unemployment, low levels of education and low socioeconomic status. In order to address these issues in a holistic manner, we need to not only offer programs for addressing their offending behaviour, but also provide young offenders with the skills and knowledge to lead a pro-social lifestyle and increase their 'connectivity' with the community. The youth unit has devised a suite of programs, activities, employment initiatives and mentoring programs that address young offenders' risk factors for reoffending and evaluation studies have commenced to establish the validity of the youth unit's programs/initiatives.

*Joint Tenancy Assistance Program:
Testament to the resilience of young people*

**Bronwyn Manion, A/g Assistant
Regional Director (Metro) Department
of Human Services, Juvenile Justice**

Bron Parker, Manager, ALIVE, CatholicCare

In late 1997, a Joint Tenancy Assistance Program (JTAP) for homeless young people with complex needs and who were in contact with the juvenile justice system was established as a partnership between Juvenile Justice (JJ), Housing NSW, Bridge Housing and CatholicCare. This partnership commitment has been maintained for 13 years. A JTAP Review Report was completed on 30 June 2009 and the results, particularly the approaches found to be supportive of the young people's resilience, will be shared in this workshop. This includes follow-up with most of the young people over a number of years. The aims of JTAP are to stabilise homeless

young people (16–19 years) with complex needs, all of whom have offending histories, away from offending lifestyles. The young people are offered a four-phased program over 12 months or more, from an initial intense joint case management approach between the young person and Juvenile Justice & CatholicCare and ongoing support by all four partners for the length of the young person's engagement with the program. The unique approach assists each young person to drive changes in their lives, to achieve goals and to celebrate successes. All of the young people on JTAP offended under the influence of alcohol and other drugs. Of the more than 50 young people participating in JTAP to date, only seven percent have reoffended while in the program. Two practitioners in JTAP will share the strategies and elements in each phase of the program; these have been developed and refined over the life of the program, through the stories and reflections of the young people.

Notes



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